

WAITING FOR ENTS

Mystery of the Maine Disas-

MANY WAR-LIKE RUMORS

Secretary Long Makes a Statement Denying Sensational Reports Spaulshand American Diverts Expenditures

(By Telegraph.)
WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—The feature of the day at the navy department was the large number of rumors of a warlike tendency that came to the attention of the officials. So formidable had grown the list that the chief of the office hours of Secretary Long was induced to make the following statement as the easiest manner of disposing of once of all the stories:

"Heavily as information has been received since Captain Sigsbee's first dispatch adding anything to our knowledge of the disaster, I am well aware that the public have up to this time taken no room for speculation of all sorts, but no confusion can be arrived at until

In examination has been made by the Agents and more facts obtained. It is now thought to say that such a thing might happen by design or accident, depending upon circumstances.

"As yet there is no indication of design. Therefore my impression has been at Young, and I further believe that Federal action is in the same direction, that it must have been accidental."

"At the cabinet meeting today the matter was not discussed, except as anyone would expect to discuss an event of that kind, and next of that which led up to the terrible loss of life and to expression of sympathy for the sufferers."

"The main reason was a very kind thought in the President's mind about the economy of Captain Sigbee, of Portsmouth Officer Walnwright and of the lost cabin men whose residences are in Washington."

"You may say absolutely that there has been no secret cabinet meeting; that nothing has taken place in the cabinet

But the public have not been informed about, that the whole policy of the department has been to give the public all the dispatches; that the department has to none knowledge on the subject of the cause of the disaster, or even of the circumstances attending it, than have the public, and that the report which was to the effect that Captain Phillips had warned the department that the steamer was in danger from submarine mines or torpedoes, is utterly without foundation, so such report having been received from him or from anybody else."

The secretary also denied briefly and comprehensively with honors that he had requested the chief of police of New York to guard the Vardya and that he had selected Constructor 1977 to Havana and raise the M. e. T. The last work of the day for him was to consult the representatives of the wrecking companies who probably will have

the department's estimate of the cost of Captain Sigbee in the terrible situation in which he had been placed, said:

"I think I express the feeling of the President, as well as my own, when I say that Captain Sigbee has conducted himself as an officer of our navy should. He was the last to leave his ship when she went down. His despatch to me that night was so complete that, since then I have thought of no man."

When I have thought of no question of
not to ask him which is essential to the
situation and which he could answer,
which is not covered by that dispatch.
Its tone, too, is that of a discreet and
level-headed man who realized the im-
possibility any word from him, at that
time, would have on the public mind.
Nothing is harder than for a man to

Later in the day the department was in receipt of a number of telegrams from different parts of the country, asking that the remains of the dead sailors be brought back to the United States.

State for information. There were other queries from the friends of the two officers, Merritt and Jenkins. The department forwarded these to Captain Siggner, whose reply was that the officers' bodies have not been found; that as to many other identification is not possible, and throwing great doubt upon

the practicality of taking any of these actions away from Havana. While no decision has been yet reached formally upon the application of the Spanish government for authorization to examine the wreck of the Maine to ascertain the cause of the explosion the officials seem inclined to regard her request as one

The miniature United States flag on the model of the battleship Maine, in the main corridor of the navy department, was lowered to half mast during

the day by direction of the secretary of the navy. The far-dsme model has been a centre of interest for the throngs at the navy department within recent days and the small flags have continued to fly at the mastheads in apparent irony of the actual condition of the vessel. A movement was started today

to drape the mode, in mourning, after the manner that the model of the British ship *Victory* was draped at the World's Fair. Secretary Long did not approve of this, however, as it suggested an obsequiation not fitting the circumstances. But he gave his assent to lowering the miniature colors, and accord-

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—President McKinley today received Senor Du Bosa, the charge Affairs of Spain, who had been commended by the Queen Regent of Spain to bear in person to the Presi-

The early absentees from today's cabinet meeting were Secretaries Sherman and Alger. During the meeting the dis-

Although the President and the members of the cabinet await with interest the result of the inquiry into the cause of the disaster, there remains scarcely a doubt in their minds that it was an accident purely, and such as might hap-

men at any time. This view of the matter, however, will not influence the President to step short of a most searching investigation into all the facts, present and remote, that may have any possible bearing upon the case or throw upon

(Continued on Fourth Page.)